

## CLAIMS

- sub. C* →
1. An ion exchange material comprising a superabsorbent polyurethane foam having an ion exchange medium contained therein.
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2. An ion exchange material according to claim 1 wherein the ion exchange medium is selected for sorbing desired metal ions from a solution and/or slurry.
3. An ion exchange material according to either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the ion  
10 exchange medium is in the form of a bead, resin, fibre, foam, liquid or other convenient form.
- Sub. A10* →
4. An ion exchange material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the ion exchange medium is in liquid form and is imbibed into a solid sorbent for embedding into the  
15 superabsorbent polyurethane foam.
- Sub. C1* →
- aa* 5. An ion exchange material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein the ion exchange medium is in the form of an emulsion or suspension for imbibing into the superabsorbent polyurethane
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6. A process for the extraction of metal anions and cations from solutions and/or slurries including the steps of:
- (a) contacting a metal ion-containing solution with an ion exchange material comprising a  
25 superabsorbent polyurethane foam having an ion exchange medium contained therein;
- (b) separating the ion exchange material from the solution and/or slurry; and
- (c) recovering the sorbed metal ions from the ion exchange medium.
- add aa* →